

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01481 071132Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 /079 W
-----094409 080301Z /14

R 071026Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHARESO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CZ, PL
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UPS TO BREZHNEV VISIT

REF WARSAW 4590

1. DAVID ANDELMAN OF NY TIMES TELLS US THAT CZECHOSLOVAK
DIPLOMAT IN BELGRADE TOLD HIM LEADERS OF ALL FIVE WP PARTICIPANTS
IN 1968 INTERVENTION WILL VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO SHOW SOLIDARITY
WITH HUSAK IN THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

2. IN OUR VIEW THIS MAY BE TRUE, BUT STATE VISITS TO PRAGUE
BY WP LEADERS AFTER BREZHNEV VISIT WOULD CERTAINLY BE
ANTICLIMATIC AND MIGHT THIS YEAR STIR UP ANTAGONISMS
CZECHOSLOVAKS STILL FEEL TOWARD SMALLER PARTICIPANTS IN
1968-CZECHOSLOVAKS RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE TO TAKE WHATEVER
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SOVIETS HAND OUT, BUT FEEL LESS RESTRICTED TOWARD, SAY,
EAST GERMANS AND POLES. WE ALSO QUESTION WHETHER A
LEADER SUCH AS KADAR WANTS TO EXPEND DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL CAPITAL ON CLOSER TIES WITH THIS REGIME.

3. RE PARA SEVEN OF REFTTEL, WE HAVE NOT VIEWED THE BREZHNEV VISIT
(AND CERTAINLY NOT THE GIEREK WORKING VISIT TO POPRAD LAST MONTH)

AS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO BOLSTER HUSAK AGAINST BILAK. BREZHNEV'S VISIT REANointed HUSAK BEFORE ALL HIS RIVALS AND ALSO BOOSTED BILAK'S PRESTIGE AT EXPENSE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF LEADERSHIP.

4. OUR CURRENT SURMISE IS THAT HUSAK AND BILAK HAVE A WORKING ALLIANCE OF CONVENIENCE, EVEN THOUGH THEIR IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS MAY DIVERGE SOMEWHAT. AS A RUTHENIAN, BILAK DOES NOT HAVE A STRONG ETHNIC/GEOGRAPHIC POWER BASE AND, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SEIZE THE TOP POSITION SHOULD HUSAK FALL. HE CURRENTLY ENJOYS FIRM NO. TWO STATUS AND ENJOYS UNCONTESTED PERSONAL INFLUENCE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD AS WELL AS GREAT INFLUENCE IN DEFENSE, AND IDEOLOGICAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY AREAS. HE MAY WELL SEE LITTLE BUT TROUBLE FOR HIMSELF IN ANY LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE.

5. DECONTROL FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.
FROWICK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CZ, PL, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
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